

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Groups and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani
Bill Bagdon

DATE: July 9, 1998

RE: A Composite Measure of Access to Children's Services Programs in Vermont

The attached graphs and tables present a composite picture of the various measures of access to Children's Services Programs that we have distributed over the past few months. The indicators include revenue and expenditures per capita, clients served per capita, and revenues and expenditures per client.

The results are presented in the "star diagram" format that we used last week to present data on access to CRT services. All measures were converted to a standard scale of 1 through 100 where 100 is equal to the highest value in the state for the particular measures. The value at the intersection of the axes is zero, the value at the end of each axis is 100. The dark line represents the scores for each Children Services program. The pale line represents the statewide average for each measure.

The last column on the table is the average access score for all six measures being examined here. As you will see, Chittenden and Washington have the highest average access scores (89 and 80, respectively) while Franklin has the lowest (35) followed by Bennington and Rutland (50 and 55 respectively).

As in our earlier reports on Children's Services' revenues and expenditures, the attached graphs and tables include all program components in each region. In response to one of our earlier mailings, Maggie Reilly (DDMHS Children's Services Unit) pointed out that the Chittenden County figures include funding of programs at NFI and Baird that serve a statewide caseload. The inclusion of these programs in Chittenden County artificially inflate the dollar amounts and may be misleading to the general public.

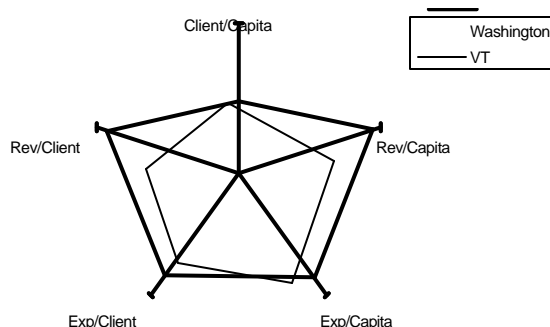
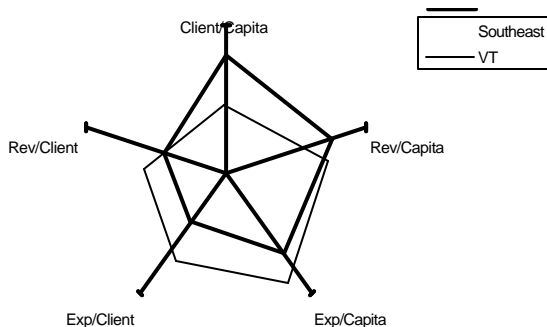
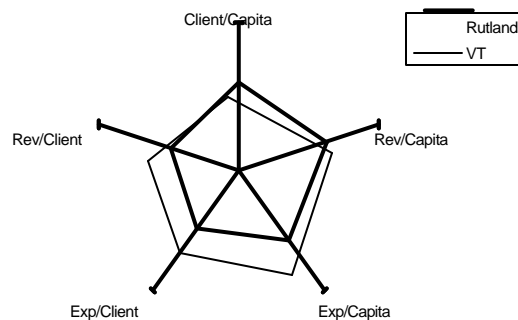
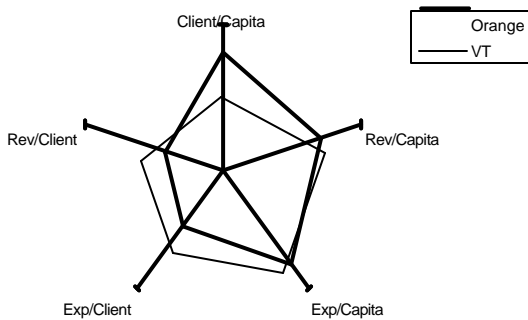
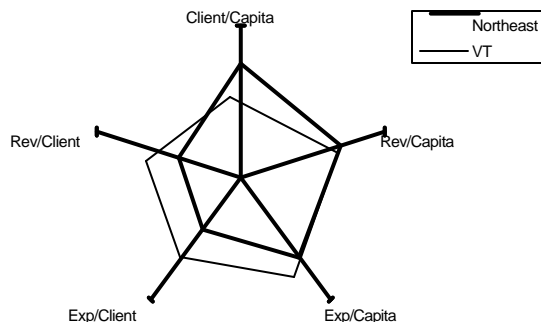
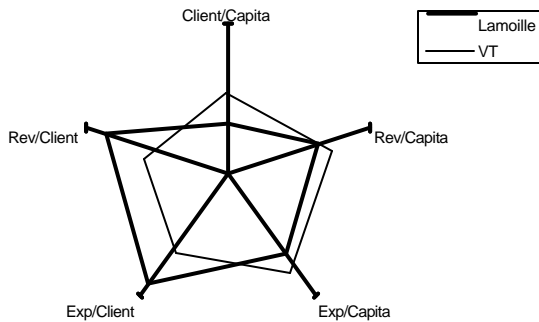
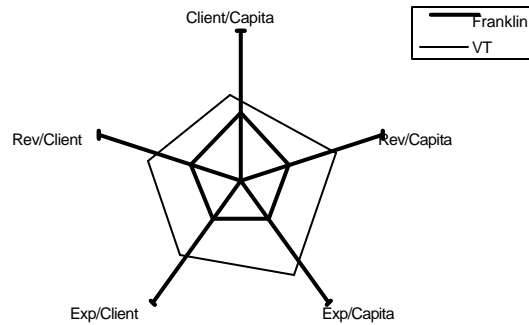
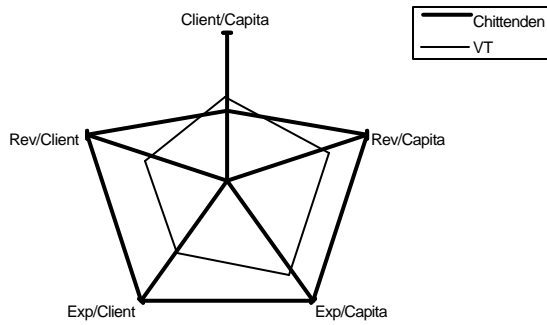
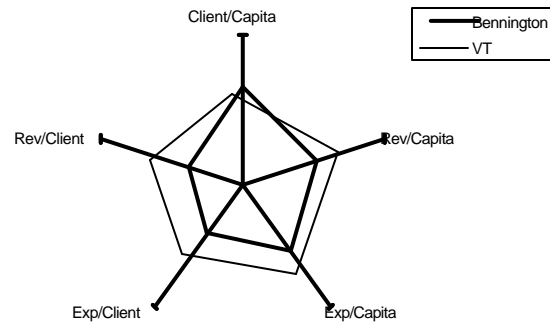
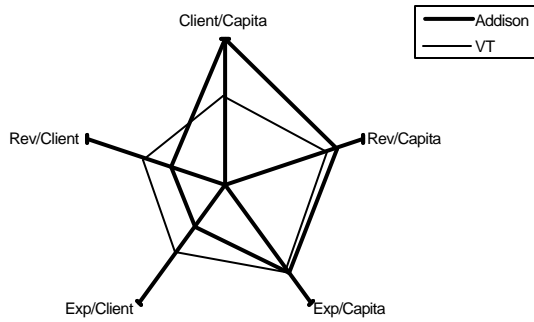
In response, we checked the residence codes for the children and adolescents served by NFI and by the children's residential program at Howard. NFI reported services to 223 children and adolescents: 48% were residents of Chittenden County, 31% were residents of the one of the four neighboring counties (Addison, Washington, Lamoille, and Franklin). Only 5% were residents of Vermont's four southern counties (Windham, Windsor, Bennington, and Rutland). Howard's residential program served a more geographically diverse caseload. Of the 108 people served, 44% were from Chittenden County, 19% were from the four neighboring counties, and 22% were from the four southern counties.

For purposes of comparison, it is interesting to note that Chittenden County is the home of 23% of Vermont' children and adolescents; 27% live in the four adjoining counties; and 33% live in the state's four southern counties.

If this issue is significant enough, a different procedure for calculating per capita expenditures could be used. Two ways of adjusting per capita funding to deal with this issue have occurred to us. Residential programs could be excluded from our access measure. The costs of residential services could be allocated to the home county of the clients. Other approaches are possible as well.

I look forward to your comments about the results of this analysis and the way in which the data are presented. Please send you e-mail to pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us, or give one of us a call at 802-241-2639.

FIVE MEASURES OF ACCESS **CHILDREN SERVICES PROGRAMS: FY1997**



**FIVE MEASURES OF ACCESS
TO CHILDREN SERVICES PROGRAMS IN VT: FY 1997
(Actual Value and Percent of Statewide Maximum Value)**

CMHC	<u>Revenue/Capita</u>		<u>Expenditures/Capita</u>		<u>Client/Capita</u>		<u>Expenditures/Client</u>		<u>Revenue/Client</u>		<u>Avg.</u>
	<u>(\$)</u>	<u>% of Max</u>	<u>(\$)</u>	<u>% of Max</u>	<u>(\$)</u>	<u>% of Max</u>	<u>(\$)</u>	<u>% of Max</u>	<u>(\$)</u>	<u>% of Max</u>	
Statewide	158	75	152	72	49	61	3122	56	3233	57	64
Addison	171	81	158	75	80	100	1972	35	2142	38	66
Bennington	111	53	116	55	52	65	2244	40	2143	38	50
Chittenden	211	100	211	100	37	47	5623	100	5638	100	89
Franklin	71	33	64	30	36	45	1775	32	1968	35	35
Lamoille	132	63	140	66	27	34	5103	91	4829	86	68
Northeast	147	69	140	66	60	75	2345	42	2464	44	59
Orange	147	70	167	79	64	81	2586	46	2283	40	63
Rutland	131	62	124	59	47	59	2713	48	2780	49	55
Southeast	160	76	143	68	64	80	2245	40	2500	44	62
Washington	196	93	179	85	38	47	4731	84	5180	92	80